



WISCONSIN STATE ASSEMBLY

STATE REPRESENTATIVE  
**DAVID BOWEN**  
10TH DISTRICT

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**Statement from Rep. Bowen on Gov. Walker's Cuts to the UW System:**

The Governor's budget proposal includes a controversial \$300 million cut in funding for the UW System over the next two years. This works out to a 13% cut in funding for the UW System, the biggest in Wisconsin's history. This slash in funding comes after the Governor previously cut the UW System's funding by \$250 million in 2011. The UW System is internationally-renowned and these continued budget cuts will harm the ability for Wisconsin to offer high-quality higher education at an affordable price to future students from our district schools like Shorewood & King High Schools.

In addition to reducing their funding, the Governor's budget plans to convert the UW System into an "independent public authority" as a compromise. However, this too will cause problems for Wisconsin, because the UW System will then have unrestricted control over a variety of issues that are currently mandated by state law. This means the UW System would have the freedom to raise tuition as much as it wants starting in 2017, potentially putting higher education out of reach for many hard working Wisconsin families.

Attending an affordable, yet outstanding institution of higher education is an experience that should be available to everyone in Wisconsin. But the UW-System has an impact well beyond the students who go to school there. Having an institution of UW-Milwaukee's caliber right in our backyard is a tremendous benefit to our local economy. Not only does it provide jobs directly, but it creates a pool of a well-educated workforce for businesses looking to expand, relocate or fill in vacancies from large projected retirements. Gov. Walker's cuts put all of that in jeopardy.

Our public universities are engines of economic growth throughout the state and it is vital we protect them. Under Gov. Walker's proposal, Wisconsin's world-class higher education system will feel the immense pain of Republicans' fiscal mismanagement. Gov. Walker shouldn't use his failed economic policies and the creation of a \$2 billion deficit as an excuse to further cut public education.

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